

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET JOURNALISTS DELEGATION

REF: STATE 174305

1. EMBOFF MET JULY 19 WITH LOMKO, MATVEYEV, SYROKOMSKIY AND VISHNEVSKIY TO DISCUSS PROPOSED ITINERARY. UNION OF JOURNALISTS OFFICIAL HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION BUT OFFERED NO ADDITIONAL COMMENT IN TELCON JULY 16.
2. ABSENCE OF VARSOBIN PROMPTED QUESTION OF HIS PARTICIPATION. WHEN CALL TO UNION OF JOURNALISTS FAILED TO CLARIFY VARSOBIN'S STATUS, LENINGRAD CONSULATE CALLED VARSOBIN DIRECTLY WHO SAID MEDICAL PROBLEMS PREVENTED HIS TRAVELING TO US.
3. DISCUSSION ON PROGRAM AND INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS TENDED TO CENTER ON SYROKOMSKIY WHO IS RELATIVELY UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AMERICAN SCENE AND THEREFORE SEEKS MORE OF A GENERAL ORIENTATION THAN DO HIS COLLEAGUES WHO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO COVER U.S. ELECTIONS AND THE BICENTENNIAL. HOWEVER, IN COMRADELY SPIRIT, SYROKOMSKIY'S SUGGESTIONS WERE SUPPORTED BY OTHERS, AND EMBOFF REITERATED PARA. 2 REFTTEL TO ASSURE DELEGATION THAT MANY AREAS WOULD BE COVERED DURING VISIT.

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4. EMBOFF NOTED THAT MEETING WITH PROGRAM AGENCY WAS FIRST ITEM ON AGENDA AND THAT ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS COULD BE MADE THEN ALTHOUGH EARLY INDICATION OF DIFFERING INTERESTS AMONG GROUP WOULD HAVE BEEN DESIRABLE. IN COVERING PROGRAM OUTLINE, PARTICIPANTS MADE ONLY ONE GENERAL SUGGESTION FOR ELIMINATING ITEMS -- OBSERVING THAT SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS WERE ON AGENDA IN EACH CITY, THEY STATED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH PROMINENT JOURNALISTS WERE OF MORE INTEREST THAN VISITING NEWSPAPER OFFICES, PLANTS OR SCHOOLS OF JOURNALISM AND PROPOSED NOT MORE THAN TWO SUCH VISITS IN EACH CITY.

5. IN WASHINGTON, DESIRE TO MEET WITH WHITE HOUSE COUNSELORS IN ADDITION TO PRESS OFFICE WAS COUPLED WITH REPETITION OF HOPE THAT FORD, REAGAN, CARTER OR KISSINGER COULD MEET DELEGATION. WHEN EMBOFF EXPRESSED DOUBTS, JOURNALISTS ASKED FOR HIGHEST ADVISORS POSSIBLE TO EACH PRINCIPAL NAMED. PROMINENT JOURNALISTS MENTIONED WERE BRODER OF WASHINGTON POST, APPLE OF NYT, CRONKITE OF CBS. IN CONGRESS LOMKO REQUESTED SENATOR PERCY WHOM HE MET PREVIOUSLY. SYROKOMSKIY AND VISHNEVSKIY MENTIONED INTEREST IN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS, US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND SCIENCE ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT. MATVEYEV SAID HE AWARE OF RESEARCH ON APPLICATION OF COMPUTERS IN POLITICAL FORECASTING AT FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE AND AT FLETCHER IN BOSTON. PARTICIPANTS MORE INTERESTED IN SOVIET SPECIALISTS AT HARVARD THAN IN ANY BOSTON NEWSPAPERS.

6. CHICAGO LEG OF PROGRAM SPARKED IDEA TO VISIT EITHER GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN OR PLAINS, GEORGIA (FROM ATLANTA). THESE SMALLER COMMUNITIES OF MORE INTEREST THAN SPRINGFIELD BECAUSE OF DESIRE TO SEE FIRST-HAND ATMOSPHERE WHICH PRODUCED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. REGARDING SMALL TOWN VISIT, INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN SEEING LOCAL FACTORIES, FARMS, TALKING WITH BUSINESSMEN AND COMMUNITY LEADERS. SYROKOMSKIY ALSO DESIRES VISITS TO LARGE FACTORY, DISCUSSIONS WITH COMPANIES ENGAGED IN FOREIGN TRADE AND MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH US-USSR TRADE.

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7. IN NEW YORK, INTEREST IN SEEING BRZEZINSKI AT COLUMBIA AND OTHERS IN RUSSIAN INSTITUTE, CITIBANK OFFICERS IN INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, INFLUENTIAL JOURNALISTS, AND POLLING ORGANIZATIONS (POSSIBLY GALLUP AT PRINCETON). IN GENERAL, PARTICIPANTS SHIFTED OFT-EXPRESSED UNION OF JOURNALISTS DESIRE FOR SEMINARS TOWARD MORE INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS.

8. ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL EVENTS IN KENNEDY CENTER, LINCOLN CENTER, ETC., WAS ASSURED WITH CONCENTRATION ON AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTISTS RATHER THAN VISITING FOREIGN GROUPS. HOME HOSPITALITY OF INTEREST ESPECIALLY IN SMALL TOWNS.

9. JOURNALISTS WERE REMINDED TO HAVE THEIR VISAS EXTENDED TO 21 DAYS. MATLOCK

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